

SM

The Jumpstart on an Elite Career

High tech, complex cutting edge systems
and computers.



Signalman
SM

Signalmen (SM) stand watches on signal bridges and send/receive messages by flashing light, semaphore and flights.

What They Do

- Prepare headings and addresses for out-going messages
- Process messages
- Encode and decode message headings
- Operate voice radio
- Maintain visual signal equipment
- Render passing honors to ships and boats
- Display ensigns and personal flags during salutes and colors
- Perform duties of lookouts
- Send and receive visual recognition signals
- Repair signal flags, pennants and ensigns
- Take bearings
- Recognize visual navigational aids
- Serve as navigator's assistants

Qualifications

Signalmen must be U.S. citizens and be able to meet all security clearance requirements. The ability to speak and write well and function as a member of an integrated team, do detailed work and keep accurate records, some physical strength and good manual dexterity are important qualifications.

Advancement

Enlistees enter the Navy as E-1s (seaman recruits). Advancement to E-2 (seaman apprentice) may be achieved after nine months of successful naval service, with advancement to E-3 (seaman) after an additional nine months of successful service.

Re-enlistment bonuses for eligible personnel are paid at the time of re-enlistment. All bonuses are in addition to Navy salary and allowances for food and housing.



Opportunities

Because of the skills and expertise needed by Signalmen, acceptance is limited to highly motivated and qualified applicants. About 2,000 men and women work in the SM rating. Graduates of SM "A" School will be assigned to ships in the United States or overseas.

Working Environment

Signalmen usually work outdoors or in a clean, air-conditioned electronic equipment space, and frequently perform their work as part of a team, but may work on individual projects. Their work is mostly mental analysis and physical dexterity. USN SMs are stationed primarily aboard USN deploying ships, TAR SMs are stationed aboard Naval Reserve Force (NRF) ships that deploy or conduct local operations.

Since Navy programs and courses are revised at times, the information contained on this rating card is subject to change.

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Career Path Following Recruit Training

Enlistees are taught the fundamentals of this rating through on-the-job training or formal Navy schooling. Advanced technical and operational training is available in this rating during later stages of career development.

| School | Present Location | Approximate Training Time | Subjects | Training Methods |
|---|-------------------|---------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| Class "A" Technical School | Great Lakes, Ill. | Approximately 6 Weeks | Training includes lectures and practical exercises covering visual communications procedures, including international Morse code, flag identification and signaling; publications, flashing light and semaphore drills and positions, as well as message construction and procedures. | Group instruction, classroom . |
| After "A" school, USN Signalmen are assigned to all types of ships. TAR Signalmen are assigned to NRF ships in CONUS. Upon completion of sea tours, TAR SMs will be assigned to reserve centers across the country including the heartland. While assigned to reserve centers TAR SMs will train and administer Selected Reserve Personnel. During a 20-year period in the Navy, SMs spend about 60 percent of their time assigned to fleet units and 40 percent to shore stations. | | | | |

All personnel now receive sea pay at sea (E-1 to E-9).



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